

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 DHA-02 NEAE-00 /049 W

----- 072001

P R 131405Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7716

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JERUSALEM 0208

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: DETAINED FSL IBRAHIM ABU-HARTHIA

REF: JERUSALEM 0188

1. AFTER COORDINATION WITH CONGEN, CHARGE RAISED MATTER WITH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL EVRON, FEB 12, AND LEFT PIECE OF PAPER GIVING FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM AND REITERATING URGENT REQUEST ACCESS BE GRANTED TO SUBJECT EMPLOYEE. EVRON PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER PROMPTLY.

2. APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS LATER, MILITARY GOVERNOR OF BETHLEHEM SUB-DISTRICT, COLONEL BRILL, CALLED CONGEN TO SAY HE HOPEFUL ABU-HARTHIA WOULD BE RELEASED FEB 13 AND, IN EVENT THIS NOT POSSIBLE, ACCESS BY FAMILY WOULD BE GRANTED.

3. AT 1400 HOURS FEB 13 GOVERNOR'S ASSISTANT CALLED TO SAY INVESTIGATION NOT YET COMPLETED AND THEREFORE SUBJECT COULD NOT BE RELEASED. HOWEVER, FAMILY COULD SEE ABU-HARTHIA AT 11:30 A.M. FEB 15 IN HEBRON. CONSUL GENERAL REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR OFFICIAL AMERICAN ALSO TO SPEAK TO SUBJECT. HE WAS INFORMED THIS NOT POSSIBLE.

4. THIS ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT FACES US WITH DECISION AS TO
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WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. GIVEN FACT ABU-HARTHIA HAS WORKED FOR

USG FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS, HAS HAD OUTSTANDING RECORD, AND IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO ALL AMERICANS WHO HAVE HAD OCCASION TO DEAL WITH HIM, IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE PERSONALLY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIVITIES. IN CONVERSATION WITH SUBJECT'S WIFE AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, FEB 12, THEY MAINTAINED THEY HAD NO IDEA AS TO WHY SUBJECT DETAINED EXCEPT THAT ABU-HARTHIA'S SON, WHO PRESENTLY STUDYING IN THE US, WAS FRIENDLY WITH ANOTHER LOCAL ARAB YOUTH WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN DETAINED. SUBJECT FSL HAS NOT BEEN DETAINED SINCE SHORTLY AFTER MID-NIGHT FEB. 8, HELD INCOMMUNICADO, AND ALL EFFORTS BY CONGEN AND EMBASSY TO FIND OUT REASONS FOR DETENTION HAVE BEEN MET WITH GENERAL STATEMENT "REASONS RELATED TO SECURITY." CONGEN WILL DEBRIEF MEMBERS OF FAMILY FEB. 15.

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